

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Amend Section 502
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Waterfowl, Migratory; American Coot; and
Common Moorhen (Common Gallinule)

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: April 23, 2004
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: July 30, 2004
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: September 2, 2004
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:
 - (a) Notice Hearing: Date: June 24, 2004
Location: Crescent City, California
 - (b) Discussion Hearing: Date: August 6, 2004
Location: Bridgeport, California
 - (c) Adoption Hearing: Date: August 27, 2004
Location: Morro Bay, California
- V. Update:
 - (a) Remove the Northeastern Zone boundary modification proposal.

The original proposal was to modify the Northeastern Zone boundary to include Shasta Valley in the Northeastern Zone. The proposed modification is to retract the original proposal. The Service decided that the boundary modification did not meet their criteria for a "minor" change. Instead, the Service will not consider the boundary modification until the "open season" scheduled for 2005. Under Service rules, this proposal can not be adopted until 2006.

- (b) Establish a partial season, also known as a "season within a season" for pintail with a season length of 60 days (which may be split) in all zones. See the following modifications for exact pintail season date proposals.

The original proposal presumed that the Service would follow the interim pintail harvest strategy which allows a 100-day season rather than a 60-day partial season.

- (c) Modify Season Lengths in the Northeastern California Zone.

The original proposal recommended a 105-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) A general duck season from the second Saturday in October extending for 86 days; a pintail season from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a canvasback season from the first Thursday in November extending for 60 days; goose season would be unchanged from the original recommendation; or 2) A split 93-day general duck season from second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and from the third Wednesday in December extending for 33 days, with a pintail season from the

second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a split 60-day canvasback season from the last Saturday in October extending for 39 days and from the last Monday in December extending for 21 days. Goose season in this alternative is a split 100-day season from the second Saturday in October extending for 53 days and from the second Wednesday in December extending for 47 days.

(d) Modify Season Lengths in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone.

The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) A split 86-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 7 days and from the second Thursday in December extending for a period of 53 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged in this alternative; or 2) A split 94-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for 22 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; and a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

(e) Modify Season Lengths in the Southern California Zone.

The original proposal recommended a continuous 100-day duck season and a continuous 100-day goose season. The proposed modification provides 3 alternatives: 1) a continuous duck season from the first Saturday in November extending for 86 days; a continuous pintail season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; no change in the originally proposed goose season; 2) a continuous 93-day general duck season from the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days; 60-day continuous pintail and canvasback seasons from the first Thursday in December; and 93-day continuous goose season from the last Saturday in October; or 3) a 100-day continuous duck season from the fourth Saturday in October; a split 60-day pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 100-day continuous goose season from the fourth Saturday in October.

(f) Modify Pintail Season Length in the Colorado River Zone.

The original proposal recommended a 100-day pintail season. The proposed modification is a 60-day continuous season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days.

(g) Modify Season Lengths in the Balance of State Zone.

The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) an 86-day split general duck season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a 60-day split pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period 14 days and from the third Thursday in December extending for a period of 46 days; a 60-day continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged from the original proposal in this

alternative; 2) a 93-day continuous general duck season from the last Saturday in October; a 60-day split pintail season from the last Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 60-day continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

- (h) Modify Daily Bag Limits of mallards in all zones except the Colorado River Zone where federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona.

The original proposal recommended a daily bag limit of 7 mallards. The proposed modification is to provide two alternative daily bag limits for mallards: either 1) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 2 hens in 86-day seasons, or 2) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 1 hen in 93- or 94-day seasons.

- (i) Modify proposed season length for geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.

The original proposal recommended this goose season to open on the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days. The proposed modification provides two alternatives: 1) open on the fourth Saturday in October extending for 100 days which is no change from originally proposed; or, 2) open the last Saturday in October extending for 93 days.

- (j) Modify Falconry Season length in the Southern California Zone.

The original proposal recommended falconry season to open concurrently with duck season extending for 107 days. The proposed modification will open concurrently with goose season extending for 107 days.

The following was adopted by the Fish and Game Commission at their meeting on August 27, 2004 in Morro Bay: A daily bag of 7 ducks, up to 5 mallards but not more than 1 female mallard, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback, 2 redheads, and 4 scaup. See below for adopted duck, goose, brant, and coot season lengths.

Statewide coots & moorhens: concurrent with duck season
Statewide black brant: Nov. 10 – Dec. 9

Northeastern Zone Ducks: Oct. 9 – Jan. 9
pintail season: Oct. 9 – Dec. 7
canvasback season: Oct. 30 – Dec. 7 & Dec. 20 – Jan. 9
goose: Oct. 9 – Jan. 16

Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone Ducks: Oct. 23 – Nov. 13 & Nov. 20 – Jan. 30
pintail season: Oct. 23 – Oct. 31 & Dec. 11 & Jan. 30
canvasback season: Dec. 2 – Jan. 30
goose: Oct. 30 – Jan. 30

Southern California Zone Ducks: Oct. 23 – Jan. 30
pintail season: Oct. 23 – Oct. 31 & Dec. 11 – Jan. 30
canvasback season: Dec. 2 – Jan. 30
goose season: Oct. 23 – Jan. 30

Colorado River Zone Ducks: Oct. 22 – Jan. 30
pintail & canvasback season: Dec. 2 – Jan. 30
goose season: Oct. 22 – Jan. 30

Balance of State Zone Ducks: Oct. 30 – Jan. 30
pintail season: Oct. 30 – Nov. 7 & Dec. 11 – Jan. 30
canvasback season: Dec. 2 – Jan. 30
goose season: Oct. 30 – Jan. 30

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting those considerations:

Responses to public comments received prior to August 7, 2004 were included in the [Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons](#) (see attached). However, comments made after August 7, 2004 and made at the June 25, August 17, and August 27 Fish and Game Commission meetings are included here.

- (a) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends season length to be 100 days or similar and/or reduce duck daily bag limit to 4 or 5 and/or a hen mallard limit of 1.

Proposal Source:

Niki Mayor, (oral testimony from 08/06/04)
Craig Bell, (oral testimony from 06/25/04)
Bill Lester, Morro Bay (email received 08/11/04)
Chris Colluris, southern California (letter received 08/04/04)
C. Eugene Thrift, Somis (08/03/04)
Glen "not legible", Oxnard (08/05/04)
Richard Nichols, Westlake Village (08/05/04)
Stephen Trewhitt, Los Angeles (letter received 08/12/04)
Mark Steidlmayer, Colusa (letter received 07/30/04)
Charles Johnson, Newport Beach (letter received 08/13/04)
Eric Johanson, (letter received 08/13/04)
John Privitelli, Los Angeles (letter received 08/09/04)
John Myers, Long Beach (letter received 08/23/04)
Mike Maier (oral testimony from 08/27/04)
Ray Prothero (oral testimony from 08/27/04)

Recommendation: Reject, in part.

Analysis: The 2004 California Breeding Pair Survey indicates local duck populations are down 23 percent from last year and 31 percent below the long-term average. The Department's recommendation of a 7 duck daily bag with a maximum of 5 mallards is sufficient to reduce harvest with an 86-day season. Regulations designed to reduce harvest are achieved more effectively by reducing season length, not bag limit. Preliminary analyses suggest the mallard daily bag limit would have to be reduced to about 2 if a 100-day season were maintained in order to have a reduction in harvest commensurate with the proposed 86-day season. The Department concludes that hunters are unaware of the magnitude of bag size reduction and are more likely to support the proposed shorter season with higher bag limits.

- (b) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends pintail bag limit be increased to 4 per day.

Proposal Source:

Neal Williams, (oral testimony from 06/25/04)

Recommendation: Reject.

Analysis: The federal framework allows only 1 pintail.

- (c) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone open prior to October 30.

Proposal Source:

Art Spaulding, (oral testimony from 08/06/04)

Recommendation: Accept. Proposal is the same as the Department's recommendation.

- (d) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends goose season length to be 100 days in the Balance of State Zone.

Proposal Source:

Jon Clark, Bossier City, LA (letter received 08/17/04)

Recommendation: Accept. Proposal is the same as the Department's recommendation.

- (e) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends a straight season in the Northeastern Zone.

Proposal Source:

Iva Rogers, Tule Lake (letter dated 08/26/04)

Phil Brown, Merrill, OR (email received 08/20/04)

Recommendation: Accept. Proposal is the same as the Department's recommendation.

- (f) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends 1) the season length to be 107 days, 2) reduce bag limit to 5 ducks, 4 mallards, and 1 hen mallard, 3) increase the pintail limit to 2, no hens, 4) no hunting on Friday of every week.

Proposal Source:

College City Hunting Club Members, (letter received 08/17/04)

21 illegible signatures on identical letter (letters received 08/10/04)

Danny Munger, Yuba City (letter received 8/19/04)

Mark Steidlmayer, Colusa (letter received 07/30/04)

Recommendation: Reject.

Analysis: 1,2) The 2004 California Breeding Pair Survey indicates local duck populations are down 23 percent from last year and 31 percent below the long-term average. The Department's recommendation of a 7 duck daily bag with a maximum of 5 mallards is sufficient to reduce harvest with an 86-day season. Regulations designed to reduce harvest are achieved more effectively by reducing season length, not bag limit. Preliminary analyses suggest the mallard daily bag limit would have to be reduced to about 2 if a 100-day season were maintained in order to have a reduction in harvest commensurate with the proposed 86-day season. The Department concludes that hunters are unaware of the magnitude of bag size reduction and are more likely to support the proposed shorter season with higher bag limits. 3) The federal framework allows only 1 pintail. 4) The federal framework allows a season to be split only once and the recommendation for all Fridays to be closed is considered to be a split season on more than one occasion.

- (g) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends the pintail season in the Southern California zone to be the split; 9 days in the beginning of the season and the last 51 days of the season or similar split season.

Proposal Source:

Robert Lagomarsino, Ventura, (letter received 08/04/04)
John Gregg, Verdugo City, (letter received 08/12/04)
Anthony Rees-Thomas, Glendale, (letter received 08/12/04)
John Perkins, Los Angeles (letter received 08/4/04)
Chris Colluris, southern California (letter received 08/04/04)
C. Eugene Thrift, Somis (letter received 08/03/04)
Glen "not legible", Oxnard (letter received 08/05/04)
Richard Nichols, Westlake Village (letter received 08/05/04)
Clinton Gerlach, Santa Monica (letter received 08/05/04)
Stephen Trehwhitt, Los Angeles (letter received 08/12/04)
Robert Gregg, Glendale (letter received 08/13/04)
Charles Johnson, Newport Beach (letter received 08/13/04)
Eric Johanson, (letter received 08/13/04)
James Perkins, Glendale (08/13/04)
John Privitelli, Los Angeles (letter received 08/09/04)
John Myers, Long Beach (letter received 08/23/04)
Mike Maier, Temple City, (letter received 08/04/04 & oral testimony from 08/27/04)
Bill Clayton (oral testimony from 08/27/04)
Larry Strausbaum (oral testimony from 08/27/04)

Recommendation: Neutral.

- (h) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends delaying the waterfowl season to no earlier than November 13 or similar.

Proposal Source:

Craig Downs, Mosquito & Vector Control Assoc. of CA (letter received 08/13/04)
John Stroh, Mosquito & Vector Control Assoc. of CA (letter received 08/26/04 & oral testimony give 08/27/04)

Recommendation: Reject.

Analysis: The Department recognizes that some areas flood up based on the timing of waterfowl season, however, the amount of acreage is unknown. Also, there are areas that flood when the agricultural drain water is available, regardless of waterfowl season timing. Delaying the season will not affect those particular areas. California has lost greater than 90% of wetland habitat and flooding up for waterfowl season benefits many wetland dependent species who winter in California and have already arrived in advance of typical waterfowl season dates.

- (i) Description of Proposed Action by Public: Recommends a slightly longer season (93-day) than the Department's recommendation and a lower bag limit for hen mallards (1 per day), reduce goose season length to 93 days

Proposal Source:

Bill Gaines, California Waterfowl Association (oral testimony give 08/27/04)

Recommendation: 1) Neutral

Analysis: Precise predictions of the magnitude of the waterfowl harvest arising from a particular set of regulations are not possible, mostly because there are a wide variety of factors that contribute to the harvest that are not controlled by the regulations (e.g. weather, hunter participation) and partly because there has been a great deal of fluctuations in annual regulations, which confounds any analysis. Adaptive Harvest Management uses only 3 regulatory packages (combinations of season length and daily bag limits) to address this issue. The goal of reduced season length and bag limits is to reduce harvest to a level such that harvest does not play a significant role in the population dynamics of the harvested species. In the case of ducks, most evidence supports a limited or non-existent role of harvest (partly because regulations have reflected population status) especially for male ducks. The role of harvest is less clear for female ducks, which undergo substantial natural mortality especially during the nesting season. Thus, the longer seasons with a lower hen bag limit proposed are not likely to have a measurably different effect on duck population dynamics from those proposed by the Department. However, this proposal continues the wide variation in annual regulation packages which limits predictability and will result in a longer period of time in which the hunting season is open for ducks but closed for pintail. This is a potential issue for some hunters, as pintail are the most numerous and visible ducks in California in winter.

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at:
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

1. Do not modify the existing boundary in the Northeastern Zone.
2. Propose the Northeastern Zone duck season to start from the third Saturday in October extending for 105 days.
3. Propose the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones duck season length to be a split, 100 day season.
4. Propose the pintail season in all zones to be a split, 100 day season.
5. Propose a 93 day season for geese in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones.
6. Propose the dark goose daily bag limit to be 4 in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones.
7. Propose the season length to be 60 days for Canada geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.

8. Propose the Canada goose daily bag limit to be 3 in the North Coast Special Management Area.

(b) No change Alternative:

1. The No Change Alternative would not modify the Northeastern Zone boundary. The current Northeastern Zone boundary does not allow maximum hunting opportunity.
2. The No Change Alternative would continue with a split duck season in the Northeastern Zone. Continuing a split duck season adds complexity to the regulations.
3. The No Change Alternative would continue with a 99 day split duck season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones. Continuing the current season length is an unnecessary restriction, does not allow maximum hunting opportunity, and adds complexity to the regulations.
4. The No Change Alternative would continue a 60 day (can be split) partial pintail season in all zones. Continuing a 60 day pintail season does not allow maximum hunting opportunity and adds complexity to the regulations.
5. The No Change Alternative would continue the 86 day goose season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones. Continuing the current season length is an unnecessary restriction and does not allow maximum hunting opportunity on white-fronted geese.
6. The No Change Alternative would not allow an increase in the dark goose daily bag limit in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones. Continuing the current goose daily bag limit is an unnecessary restriction and does not allow maximum hunting opportunity on white-fronted geese.
7. The No Change Alternative would continue a 16 day Canada goose season in the North Coast Special Management Area. The current season length allows continued population growth of Aleutians and would lead to greater depredation complaints on the northwest coast of California in the spring.
8. The No change Alternative would not allow a daily bag increase of 1 to 2 Small Canada geese in the North Coast Special Management Area. Continuing population growth of Aleutians would lead to greater depredation effects on the northwest coast of California in the spring.

- (c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

- (a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Businesses, Including

the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulation(s) are intended to provide additional recreational opportunity to the public. The response is expected to be minor in nature.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None.
- (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.
- (d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State: None.
- (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None.
- (f) Programs mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None.
- (g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None.
- (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None.

Updated Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Current regulations in Section 502, Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), provide definitions, hunting zone descriptions, season opening and closing dates, and daily bag and possession limits. In addition to the eight proposals contained herein, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), through the analysis of waterfowl population survey and other data, may also initiate changes in federal regulations which will require changes in existing and proposed State regulations. Changes in federal regulations for season opening and closing dates, modifying zone boundaries, elimination or creation of special management areas, season length, and daily bag limits for migratory birds may occur. **All Some** proposed changes (**numbers 1 and 9 through 12**) to State regulations (~~excluding proposal 2~~) require changes in the federal regulations and also must be approved by the Pacific Flyway Council at their meeting on July 23, 2004. ~~Proposal 2 is consistent with federal regulations as they are currently understood.~~ The Service will consider these and other recommendations at their meeting on July 29, 2004. The Department is anticipating that the Service will follow the pintail interim harvest strategy which allows a 1 bird daily bag limit throughout the general duck season and that the Service will also allow a 60 day canvasback season. Also, minor editorial changes were made to clarify and simplify the regulations and to comply with existing federal frameworks. **At the time of the Initial Statement of Reasons, the 2004 California Breeding Pair Survey was not completed and the results were unavailable. The results are now available which cause the Department to modify the original proposal because local duck populations are down 23 percent from last year and 31 percent below the long-term average. Also, based on information from the Service, only a 60-day partial pintail season, or a “season within a season” will be allowed. In addition, alternative modifications, provided by the public, are included that are expected to result in similar biological responses by the harvested populations.**

1. ~~Modify the existing boundary in the Northeastern Zone to include Shasta Valley in the Northeastern Zone.~~

The proposed change retracts the Northeastern Zone boundary modification proposal. The Service decided that the boundary modification did not meet their criteria for a “minor” change. Instead, the Service will not consider the boundary modification until the “open season” scheduled for 2005. Under Service rules, this proposal can not be adopted until 2006.

2. ~~Modify the duck season in the Northeastern Zone from a 105-day split (2 segments) season to a 105-day continuous season.~~

The original proposal recommended a 105-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season. The proposed modification provides two alternatives:

- 1) A continuous 86-day general duck season from the second Saturday in October; a pintail season from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a canvasback season from the first Thursday in November extending for 60 days; goose season would be unchanged from the original recommendation; or
- 2) A split 93-day general duck season from second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and from the third Wednesday in December extending for 33 days, with a pintail season from the second Saturday in October extending for 60 days and a split 60-day canvasback season from the last Saturday in October extending for 39 days and from the last Monday in December extending for 21 days. Goose season in this alternative is a split 100-day season from the second Saturday in October extending for 53 days and from the second Wednesday in December extending for 47 days.

3. ~~Increase the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zone duck season length from 99 days (split) to a 100-day continuous season opening on the fourth Saturday in October.~~

The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season in the Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone. The proposed modification provides two alternatives:

1) A split 86-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 7 days and from the second Thursday in December extending for a period of 53 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged in this alternative; or

2) A split 94-day general duck season from the third Saturday in October extending for 22 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for 72 days; a split 60-day pintail season from the third Saturday in October extending for a period of 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for a period of 51 days; a continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; and a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

4. ~~Increase the 60-day partial pintail season to a 100-day (full season) in all zones.~~

4. The original proposal recommended a continuous 100-day duck season and a continuous 100-day goose season in the Southern California Zone. The proposed modification provides 3 alternatives:

1) a 86-day continuous duck season from the first Saturday in November; a continuous pintail season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; no change in the originally proposed goose season;

2) a 93-day continuous duck season from the last Saturday in October; 60-day continuous pintail and canvasback seasons from the first Thursday in December; and 93-day continuous goose season from the last Saturday in October; or

3) a 100-day continuous duck season from the fourth Saturday in October; a split 60-day pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 100-day continuous goose season from the fourth Saturday in October.

5. The proposed modification for the Colorado River Zone is as follows: The pintail season will be from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days.

6. The original proposal recommended a 100-day continuous duck season and a 100-day continuous goose season in the Balance of State Zone. The proposed modification provides two alternatives:

1) an 86-day split duck season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period of 14 days and from the third Saturday in November extending for a period of 72 days; a 60-day split pintail season from the fourth Saturday in October extending for a period 14 days and from the third Thursday in December extending for a period of 46 days; a 60-day continuous canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; goose season is unchanged from the original proposal in this alternative;

2) a 93-day continuous duck season from the last Saturday in October; a 60-day split pintail season from the last Saturday in October extending for 9 days and from the second Saturday in December extending for 51 days; a 60-day continuous

canvasback season from the first Thursday in December extending for 60 days; a continuous 93-day goose season from the last Saturday in October.

7. The original proposal recommended a daily bag limit of 7 mallards. The proposed modification is to provide two alternative daily bag limits for mallards: either 1) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 2 hens in 86-day seasons except the Colorado River Zone where federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona, or 2) a daily bag limit of 5 mallards with 1 hen in 93- or 94-day seasons except the Colorado River Zone where federal regulations require that California's hunting regulations conform to those of Arizona.
8. The proposed change for pintail establishes a partial season, also known as a "season within a season" for pintail with a season length of 60 days (which may be split) in all zones. Based on information from the Service, only a 60-day partial pintail season, or a "season within a season" will be allowed.
59. Lengthen the goose season from 86 to **either 93 or 100** days in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones.
610. Increase the dark goose daily bag limit from 2 to 3 in the Southern San Joaquin Valley and Balance of State Zones.
711. Increase the season length from 16 to **either 93 or 100** days for Canada geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.
812. Increase the Small Canada goose daily bag limit from 1 to 2 but maintain the daily bag limit of 1 Large Canada geese in the North Coast Special Management Area.
13. **The proposed modification for falconry season in the Southern California Zone will open concurrently with goose season extending for 107 days.**
14. **The Commission adopted the following regulations at the August 27, 2004 meeting in Morro Bay:**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Seasons</u>	<u>Daily Bag & Possession Limits</u>
Statewide	coots & moorhens	concurrent with duck season	25/day. 25 in possession singly or in the aggregate.
	Black Brant	Nov 10 – Dec 9	2/day. Possession limits double the daily bag.
<u>Northeastern Zone</u>	Ducks	Oct 9 – Jan 9	7/day, up to 5 mallards but no more than 1 hen mallard, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Oct 9 – Dec 7	
	Canvasback	Oct 30 – Dec 7 & Dec 20 – Jan 9	

	Geese	Oct 9 – Jan 16	3/day, no more than 2 dark geese of which no more than 1 may be a small Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
<u>Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone</u>	Ducks	Oct 23 – Nov 13 & Nov 20 – Jan 30	7/day, up to 5 mallards but no more than 1 hen mallard, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Oct 23 – Oct 31 & Dec 11 – Jan 30	
	Canvasback	Dec 2 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 30 – Jan 30	3/day, up to 3 white geese or 3 dark geese of which no more than 1 may be a small Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
<u>Southern California Zone</u>	Ducks	Oct 23 – Jan 30	7/day, up to 5 mallards but no more than 1 hen mallard, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Oct 23 – Oct 31 & Dec 11 – Jan 30	
	Canvasback	Dec 2 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 23 – Jan 30	5/day, up to 3 white geese, or 3 dark geese, of which no more than 1 may be a small Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
<u>Colorado River Zone</u>	Ducks	Oct 22 – Jan 30	7/day, no more than 2 hen mallards or Mexican-like ducks, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Dec 2 – Jan 30	
	Canvasback	Dec 2 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 22 – Jan 30	6/day, no more than 3 dark geese or 3 white geese. Possession limits double the daily bag.

<u>Balance of State Zone</u>	Ducks	Oct 30 – Jan 30	7/day, up to 5 mallards but no more than 1 hen mallard, 4 scaup, 2 redheads, 1 canvasback, 1 pintail. Possession limits double the daily bag.
	Pintail	Oct 30 – Nov 7 & Dec 11 – Jan 30	
	Canvasback	Dec 2 – Jan 30	
	Geese	Oct 30 – Jan 30	3/day, up to 3 white geese, or 3 dark geese EXCEPT in the Sacramento Valley (West) Special Management Area where only 2 may be white-fronted geese. Only 1 dark goose may be a Small Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
<u>Special Area Regulations</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Daily Bag & Possession Limits</u>
North Coast	Canada geese	Oct 30 – Jan 30	2/day of which only 1 may be a Large Canada goose. Possession limits double the daily bag.
South Humboldt Bay	All species	Closed Nov 10-Dec 9	
Sacramento Valley (west)	white-fronted geese	Closed after Dec 14	
Sacramento Valley (east)	Canada geese	Closed	
Morro Bay	All species	Open in designated areas	
Martis Creek Lake	All species	Closed until Nov 16	
Imperial County	White geese		3/day, possession limits double the daily bag.
<u>Youth Hunt Days</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Daily Bag & Possession Limits</u>
Northeastern Zone	same as regular season	September 25 & 26	same as regular season

Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	same as regular season	February 5 & 6	
Southern California Zone	same as regular season	February 5 & 6	
Colorado River Zone	same as regular season	February 5	
Balance of State Zone	same as regular season	February 5 & 6	
<u>Falconry Take of Ducks</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Season</u>	<u>Daily Bag & Possession Limits</u>
Northeastern Zone	ducks, geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	open concurrently with duck season and extending for 105 days.	3/day, either all of 1 species or a mixture of species allowed for take. Possession limits double the daily bag.
Balance of State Zone	ducks, geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	open concurrently with duck season and extending for 107 days.	
Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone	ducks, geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	open concurrently with duck season and extending for 107 days.	
Southern California Zone	ducks, geese, American Coot and Common Moorhen	open concurrently with duck season and extending for 107 days.	
Colorado River Zone	ducks, American Coot and Common Moorhen (geese not allowed in this zone)	open concurrently with duck season and from Jan 31-Feb 4.	